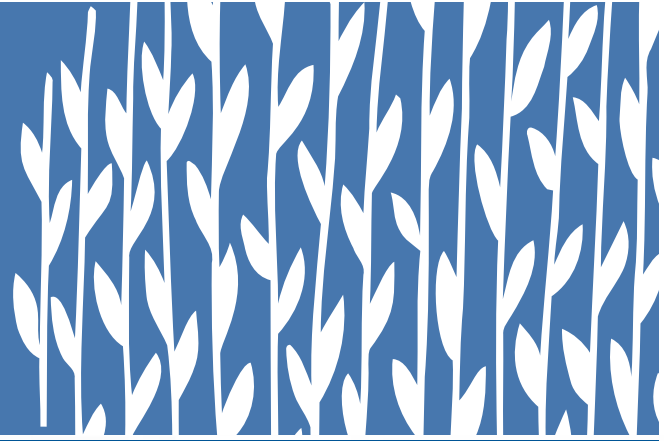


VILLAGE OF *Decker Oaks*



JANUARY 2016

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

WELCOME TO VILLAGE OF DECKER OAKS HOA NEWS

*A Newsletter
for the Village of
Decker Oaks
Community*

The Village of Decker Oaks Newsletter is a monthly newsletter mailed to all Village of Decker Oaks residents. Each newsletter will be filled with valuable information about the community, local area activities, school information, and more.

If you are involved with a school group, play group, scouts, sports team, social group, etc., and would like to submit an article for the newsletter, you can do so online at www.PEELinc.com. Personal news (announcements, accolades/honors/celebrations, etc.) are also welcome as long as they are from area residents.

GO GREEN! Subscribe via Peelinc.com to have an email sent to you with a link to a PDF of the newsletter, or have an email sent to you instead of having a newsletter mailed to you!

GOOD NEWS!

The Village of Decker Oaks is excited to announce that our management company, SCS Management Services, has released SCS GO – a solution of choice communication tool for our community.

SCS GO- will be accessible via mobile phone, tablet and desktop – and completely private—SCS GO will make it easy and safe for you to receive and share important information with your HOA board, HOA committees, neighborhood groups, and Management Company.

Here are just a few of the things you can do within SCS GO:

- Receive important news from our community
- Post and receive instant watch alerts to help keep our neighborhood safe

- Share recommendations for local businesses and professional services

- Post items for sale or giveaway, or find items you're searching for right in our own community

- Report lost and found pets in real time
- Receive local news, tailored specifically to our community

Signing up is easy! Please visit <https://scsgo.nabrnetwork.com/signup.php>. We'll verify your address and provide you with log in credentials.

Let's work together to keep your community strong! Join us on SCS GO today!

Sincerely,
The Village of Decker Oaks Board of Directors

Tomball Art League

Make your art a priority in 2016! Our mission is to promote Art Appreciation in Tomball & surrounding communities, to stimulate enthusiasm for the Arts, increase our knowledge and techniques by having renowned artists demonstrate, and to unite artists by having a common meeting place to share new techniques & knowledge. Join Us!

Jan. 9 – Guest Artist, Peihong Endris - Chinese Brush & Ink

Feb. 13 – Kathy Fediw - Pastels

TAL meets at 9:30 a.m. the 2nd Saturday of the month (some exceptions) in the Amegy Bank building, 2nd Floor,

Hwy 249 @ Medical Complex Dr. in Tomball.
For more info: thetomballartleague.com

VILLAGE OF DECKER OAKS

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT CO.:

SCS Management Services, Inc.

Phone:..... 281-463-1777

Fax: 281-463-0050

..... 7170 Cherry Park Drive

..... Houston, TX 77095

Website: www.scsgo.com

Association Manager

Jessica Smith..... 281-500-7129

Service Manager

Jessica Riggs 281-500-7111

Deed Restriction Coordinator

Susan Spratley 281-500-7118

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Cy Fair VFD 281-550-6663

HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF

Sheriff Dispatch 713-221-6000

SCHOOL DISTRICT:

Cy Fair ISD..... 281-897-4000

WATER DISTRICT

MUD 10..... 832-467-1599

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Harris County..... 713-274-6300

CYPRESS POINT RECREATION ROOM RENTAL

Voicemail 281-256-1579

ELECTRIC COMPANY/ OUTAGES

Centerpoint..... 713-207-2222

<http://www.centerpointenergy.com/en-us/residential/in-your-community/electric-outage-center/report-streetlight-outages>

GARBAGE SERVICE

Best Trash 281-313-2378

(Service is contracted through the MUD and trash pickup is on Wednesday and Saturday)

HELPFUL NUMBERS

Montgomery County Constables 281-356-3883

WCA 281-766-1914

Enviro Waste Systems..... 936-264-3001

Hughes Natural Gas..... 281-356-8241

Quadvest 281-356-5347

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NOW HIRING

Advertising Sales Representative

Description: The position includes marketing our community newsletters to local and area businesses. It is a flexible position that allows you to work from home and set your own hours.

Roles: Stimulate new advertising accounts in our community newsletters. Maintain current accounts assigned to you by Sales Manager. Service your accounts by assisting them from ad design to final proof approval.

Skills: Excellent communication through email and phone, with high level presentation and relationship-building skills. Strong prospecting and business development skills are a must. Previous sales experience preferred but not required.

Benefits: Commission Based
Apply by sending resume to jobs@peelinc.com



PEEL, INC.

SPRINGTAILS



Springtails are very small, jumping insects that can sometimes become a problem inside homes. Springtails are usually found in areas of moisture, so indoors they may be located near potted plants, sinks, bath tubs or kitchen compost areas. These insects are typically found outside in gardens, near swimming pools or near where there is excessive moisture or standing water.

Springtails are small (about 1/16 of an inch long), wingless and come in various colors. These insects have a “tail” that latches into a space on the underside of the body that they can use to “jump” several inches into the air.

Springtails are considered a nuisance insect, but some may chew on roots and leaves of sapling plants. They usually do not cause enough damage to warrant control measures to be taken. If you have springtails in your home it points to a moisture problem that should be fixed.

Options for helping reduce springtail problems:

- Remove excessive mulch and/ or leaf litter near the home
- Change watering schedule to reduce the amount of moisture near the home
- Use fans or dehumidifiers to reduce moisture indoors
- Seal cracks, crevices, pipe & wire penetrations on the outside of the home
- Replace or repair any screening on doors and windows that is damaged
- Replace weather stripping around doors and windows that does not provide a good seal
- Suck up any indoor infestations with a vacuum

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.

Finding Resolution

I am a goal-oriented, list-making individual. It's how I'm wired, and it has helped me be productive and successful in many ways. However, being goal-oriented doesn't always work so well when building relationships. What if the other individual doesn't have the same goals as you do?

This has been the case many times in my life, and my tendency was to bulldoze over them with my lack of concern for their goals. My goals were better, more thought out, more important, etc. What does that do to this relationship that I valued to work on so much? It completely undermines the whole thing! So, how did I learn to stop this destructive pattern in my relationships? Horses!

How many of you have tried to get an animal that weighs over 1000 pounds to meet your personal goals? It's not easy. Yes, it is possible to force them to do many things, but can you catch them easily the next day? Do they really want to have a relationship with you after you have met said goals? Mine didn't. Mine ran away and fought many things I tried to “teach”.

What did it take for me to listen to the horse's thought on our relationship? An unplanned dismount is the nicest way I've heard it phrased. When a horse goes to bucking, it is pretty clear it doesn't respect your leadership. A wise man once asked me what happened before that buck. I answered, “Lots of little things that I ignored, actually.”

I'm too old to ignore those little signals anymore. It hurts to hit the ground with that kind of force! As I've learned to listen to horses better, it has also helped me to listen to people better. Have you ever asked a friend what they want to receive out of the relationship you have? Do they have needs that aren't being met? If they aren't treated respectfully and valued, they may not stick around.

Setting goals is still helpful, especially in helping me think of the steps to help myself achieve them. I just want to make sure I am not ruining relationships along the way. So, my goal setting looks different now as I make sure it includes the friends I value the most.

These are a few of my relational goal ideas for the next year. They are all oriented toward preventing those blow ups, like my horse gave me, with one of my friends or husband.

Be a better friend by:

1. Stopping to question myself when feeling annoyed or offended- “Is really that important?”
2. Plan monthly dates to build relationships.
3. Check in with my friends to find out their needs, before they ask!
4. Be more available by being less BUSY- say no to more things, so I can say yes to important ones.
5. LISTEN better- friends are giving early signs of needs, but we are distracted with our own.

Shannon Birkelbach works at Five Horses, LLC in Waller, Texas. To find out more about how horses can help you and your relationships, check out the natural horsemanship program as well as the equine assisted learning workshops provided here. www.fivehorses.com



Northwest Harris County Aggie Mom's Club

Please join us for the Northwest Harris County Aggie Mom's Club monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 beginning with the social at 6:30 PM where light snacks and drinks are served, followed by the meeting at 7:00. Meetings are held at the Houston Distributing Company, 7100 High Life Drive, conveniently located near Willowbrook Mall at the intersection of High Life Drive and Cutten Road. Our guest speaker will be Lt. Colonel Jay Brewer, Sr. Associate Director of Aggie Bands.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS: The NWHC Aggie Moms Club raises money throughout the year to fund scholarships to students from our local community. Eligible students should check our website for details, www.nwhcaggiemoms.org. The deadline for submissions is February 2, 2016.

SAVE THE DATE!

Don't miss the Annual China Luncheon and Style Show on Saturday, February 20, 2016 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Shirley Acres located at 217 Woerner Rd., Spring, Texas. Get your ticket(s) at one of our monthly meetings or visit our website. For more information contact Tami Denault at tamidenault@sbcglobal.net.

The Northwest Harris County Aggie Mom's Club meets August thru May on the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm at 7100 High Life Drive. Refreshments are served at 6:30 with meeting beginning at 7:00. For more information on monthly speakers or upcoming events visit our website at www.nwhcaggiemoms.org or contact Patty Rabel, Club President at rabelpp@aol.com.



JUST DO IT!

SELL US YOUR CAR!™

TEXASDIRECTAUTO.COM

The advertisement features a black and white photograph of a dog, possibly a pit bull mix, sitting on a white surface. The dog is wearing a dark-colored shirt and a white measuring tape around its neck. In front of the dog are two dumbbells and a coiled measuring tape. The text 'JUST DO IT!' is written in large, bold, black letters to the right of the dog. Below the photograph, the text 'SELL US YOUR CAR!™' is written in large, bold, white letters with a black outline. At the bottom, the website 'TEXASDIRECTAUTO.COM' is written in a smaller, bold, black font. A small logo of a car is visible to the left of the website name.

GARDENING TIPS FOR JANUARY

January is the perfect time to work off some of the calories that were available during the Holidays. Now is the time to refresh your flower beds with new organic matter. Organic matter in the soil helps maintain soil moisture while giving your plants a slow -release fertilization. Some forms of organic matter must be worked into the soil, i.e. commercial Garden Soils, Peat Moss, Compost, or well-aged manure.

Put down a 1 to 2 inch layer of your chosen organic matter, and till or fork it in to the top 6 to 8 inches of your soil. All but Peat Moss can also be used as a top dressing; however, it is more beneficial to work it into the soil.

In January our plants are at least semi-dormant, it is time to do your major pruning. Remove dead wood, crossing branches that rub and any limbs that are broken. If you need to lower the overall height of any shrubs, a good rule of thumb is not to lower it more than 1/3 of the total height.

Roses need to be pruned before Feb. 15th. Remove any dead wood and any crossing branches. When trimming Roses, use a good sharp pair of bypass pruners and be sure to make an angle cut above a leaf scar.



Chicken Tortilla Soup

Total Time: 35 minutes/ Preparation: 10 minutes/ Cook: 25 minutes. 4-6 servings

Ingredients:

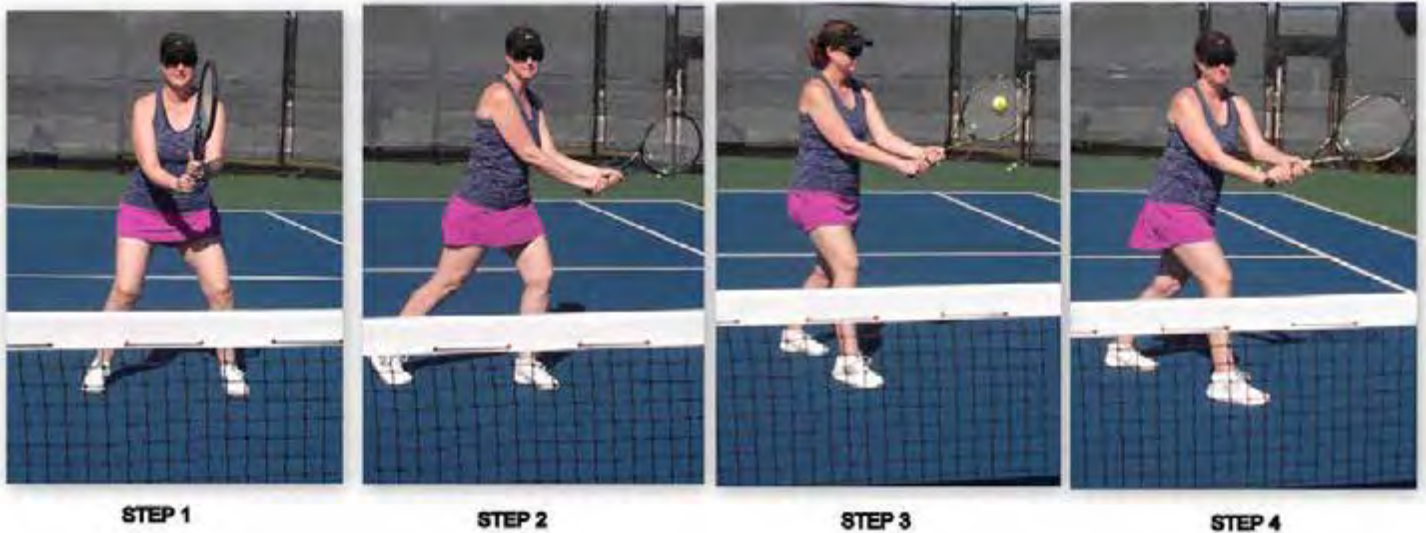
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 small onion, diced
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 2 jalapenos, finely diced
- 6 cups low-sodium or regular chicken broth
- 1 (14.5-ounce) can fire roasted diced tomatoes or similar
- 1 (14.5-ounce) can black beans, rinsed & drained or similar
- 3 chicken breasts boneless & skinless
- 2 limes, juiced, plus wedges for garnish
- Salt & freshly ground black pepper
- 1 cup roughly chopped fresh cilantro leaves
- 1 (8-inch) flour tortilla, grilled, cut into thin strips or corn tortilla
- 1 avocado, pitted, sliced
- 1 cup shredded Monterrey cheese

Directions: In a large sauce pan heat the vegetable oil. Add the onions & cook for 2 minutes. Once the onions have softened add the garlic & jalapenos & cook for another minute. Pour the chicken broth, tomatoes & beans into the pot & bring to a boil. Once at a boil, lower heat to simmer and add chicken breasts. Cook the chicken is cooked remove from pot. When cool enough to handle, shred chicken & set aside. Add lime juice & fresh cilantro to the pot. In a serving bowls add a mound of shredded chicken. Ladle (gradually pour) soup over chicken & top with lime wedge, grilled tortilla strips, avocado slices & cheese.



TENNIS TIPS

*By USPTA/PTR Master Professional
Fernando Velasco
Owner, Manager and Director of Tennis
Grey Rock Tennis Club, Austin, TX*



In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to hit a forehand groundstroke, a two-handed backhand, one-handed backhand and a forehand volley. In this issue, I will give you instructions on how to execute a two-handed backhand volley for a right hander. This stroke is used whenever the player is forced to hit a ball in the air. In these pictures player Robyn Fuller from the Grey Rock Tennis Club demonstrates the proper form and technique.

Step 1: Ready Position: The body is facing the net. The right hand is holding the end of the racket in a forehand grip position and the left hand is next to the right hand. The left hand is holding the racket slightly tighter than the right hand. Feet are a shoulder width apart and the body is in equal balance. For beginners it is okay to use the forehand and backhand grips for the forehand and backhand volleys. As the player gets stronger and the balls come at a faster speed, it will be best to use the continental grip for both volleys.

Step 2: Back Swing: Since the volley is usually executed when a player is close to the net and there is very little time to react to the incoming ball, the back swing is very short. The left hand will make a slight change of the grip and the right hand will be relaxed and loose. The left shoulder should take a short turn and the head of the racket should align to the flight of the ball. The left wrist should be “cocked” back slightly and the head of the racket should be above the wrist. Eyes are still focused on the incoming ball.

Step 3: Point of Contact: The right foot is now taking a step forward and the racket is making contact with the ball. It is important to keep the left shoulder closed and not rotate the right hip too early. Flexing the right knee will allow more flexibility to find the proper point of contact and give power to the ball.

Step 4: Follow Through: Once the racket has made contact with the ball, the follow through is very short to allow the player to immediately get back to the ready position. The right arm should be close to the body.

Look for in the next Newsletter: The Serve



Kids' Club

Attention KIDS: Send Us Your Masterpiece!

Color the drawing below and mail the finished artwork to us at:

Peel, Inc. - Kids Club
308 Meadowlark St
Lakeway, TX 78734-4717

We will select the top few and post their artwork on our Facebook Page - Facebook.com/PeelInc.

DUE: January 31st

Be sure to include the following so we can let you know!

Name: _____

(first name, last initial)

Age: _____



WINTER WONDERLAND

VDO



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Lakeway, TX 78734

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